

2015 Fellowship

Timeline

Application Opens:	January 5, 2015
Application Closes:	February 13, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. EST
Fellows Notified:	May 2015
Program Dates:	October – November TBA

OneBeat is an incubator for music-based social entrepreneurship where innovative musicians from around the world launch collaborative projects designed to make a positive impact on local and global communities. Now in its third year, OneBeat is cultivating a groundbreaking international network of leading artistic, technological, and social innovators in music.

Program Website

www.1beat.org

The program website will serve as an interactive platform to connect Fellows with each other and build communities with U.S. and international audiences.

What are the goals for OneBeat?

More than simply a performance program, OneBeat balances three interlocking goals: dialogue, creation, and social engagement in an effort to promote civil society, youth engagement, build mutual understanding and encourage professional networks between the United States and other countries.

- By *dialogue* we mean a chance to discuss with one another what music means in the context of society, culture, and politics. How do we invite our communities to participate in the transformative power of music? How do we create art that invigorates/enriches a community? How can music function, in some small way, to heal wounds created by conflict, stress, poverty and lay the groundwork for healthier systems?
- By *creation* we mean composing innovative new music that respects the integrity of each of our traditions. We believe that the act of collaborative creation -- facing down a blank page together -- allows Fellows to discover a more authentic and powerful "world music", and find new avenues to bring music to a wide audience through live performance and online media.
- By *social engagement*, we mean that Fellows will lead workshops and events with groups of youth and communities along the tour route. By listening to one another's voices, and inventing something new together, OneBeat can contribute to the development of strong, healthy communities. This will include creative projects with students, public "street studios", sound installations, and more.

About

Three years ago the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs partnered with NY-based organization Bang on a Can's [Found Sound Nation](http://www.found-sound-nation.org) to create OneBeat, a music based diplomacy program that brings musicians together in the United States to encourage cross-cultural collaboration and understanding.

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OneBeat was created in response to interest from the field in creating a **new arts program model for a multi-national collaboration to promote cross-border understanding**, as well as mutual understanding between these foreign musicians and Americans. While in the US, **the program is designed to foster professional networks and illustrate democratic values** inherent in improvisational and collaborative music-making. **In addition to the collaborative music the Fellows create and record during their fellowship and the media produced to document the experiences via social media, our OneBeat program partners develop innovative engagement activities designed to explore cultural collaboration, youth engagement, civil society, women's empowerment, technology, entrepreneurship, and the environment.**

OneBeat Fellows are selected not only on the basis of their musical talent, but also because of their leadership, entrepreneurial spirit and their impact as 'youth influencers'. Fellows share commitment to promoting positive social change in their home countries. OneBeat alumni have been speaking up for internet freedom, raising HIV/AIDS awareness and conducting outreach with street children in Africa, working on human rights and social inclusion for Roma people in EUR, opening community centers for youth in Africa, working to end violence towards women, and working towards reconciliation in the Middle East.

In 2014, 25 musicians from 17 countries continued the OneBeat journey through the Southwest United States. In 2013, 25 musicians from 16 countries embarked on their OneBeat journey. In the fall of 2012, 32 musicians (ages 19-35) from 21 countries came together in the U.S. for four weeks to collaboratively write, produce, and perform original music, and develop ways that music can make a positive impact on our local and global communities.

Program

OneBeat consists of a two week *Residency*, when Fellows will create original material and develop workshop ideas, and a two-week *Tour*, when Fellows will give performances and lead workshops with youth and communities groups. OneBeat Fellows will have their travel, room, and board costs covered.

Community Engagement

A highlight of the OneBeat tour will be the implementation of innovative community outreach in each location. In conjunction with a youth development or youth arts group in each city, each small group of Fellows will be given the opportunity to carry out their own educational programming as it was developed and refined during the Residency. This will give both American and foreign participants the invaluable opportunity to teach young people through inventive and personally meaningful ways, and will encourage all Fellows to further develop their own strategies for educating and reaching out to a younger generation of musicians in their respective communities.

Audio

There will be a full time audio-engineer on staff with the program, and a mobile recording and editing studio with both high-tech and low-tech recording setups, a full set of microphones A/D converters and several workstations.

Video

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Video is essential to share OneBeat's work with a larger community, document the process, and provide feedback for the Fellows. Professional quality concert footage, music videos, and filmed youth workshops will increase the music's accessibility through social media, One Beat's website, and other avenues. The video footage will also allow Fellows to reflect on their performances and group work, and continue to refine them over the course of the program and beyond. OneBeat Fellows with an interest in video are encouraged to involve video production in their projects.

Social Media

<https://twitter.com/1beatmusic>

www.facebook.com/1beatmusic

[instagram.com/1beatmusic](https://www.instagram.com/1beatmusic)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbL14vPLRvQJkauBCZZG6lg>

Staff

The OneBeat staff includes a number of U.S.-based musical Facilitators and master Collaborating Artists. Facilitators are established professional musicians who are part of the OneBeat ensembles for the duration of the program. Collaborating Artists join the program for shorter amounts of time, during which they will give workshops on specific musical topics.

FAQs

How do musicians apply? What are the application requirements?

Musicians apply directly via the OneBeat website (www.1beat.org), where they describe their musical journeys and why they are interested in being a OneBeat Fellow. Applications require work samples (which can be in the form of audio, video, and/or written scores), including one solo work, one collaborative work, and a work of their choice that helps us to understand them as a musician and person. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to include a CV or resume, and two letters of reference.

Can the U.S. Embassy make nominations? What role will the U.S. Embassy play?

This public-private partnership exchange has an application process that is different from our other exchange programs. **Artists from eligible countries apply directly themselves via an open online application.** Both posts & a panel of regional musical experts have input (posts comment on the musicians' track records and potential as 'change agents' and youth influencers in their home countries- which is an important part of the selection criteria), but since ensemble performance is a big part of this program, the musicians are 'cast' as much as they're 'selected'. A key goal is to create a group of versatile musicians whose talents will blend well in making new music.

With an open application in 40 countries and territories, it's a very competitive process (in 2014, 1600 applied for 25 slots) & there is no guarantee a country will get a Fellow, however, the program strives to have representation from each geographic region.

Applications for OneBeat do not have to be nominated by Embassy personnel, as they apply individually. **However, in posts where the situation on the ground, makes it challenging for individuals to apply, Embassies can submit on their behalf.** Embassies can provide encouragement, technical support, and reference letters to musicians whom they feel would be excellent OneBeat Fellows.

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As part of the selection process, Embassies have an opportunity to provide feedback on the applications from their country.

Will the Call for Nominations be publicized overseas?

Our program partner, Found Sound Nation, will publicize the application period through their networks. Embassies play an integral role in getting the message out to their constituents. We encourage posts to publicize through social media and traditional media. We will provide post with graphics to help in your efforts.

What are the eligibility criteria?

Age: Applicants must be between the ages of 19-35.

Country: Applicants must be a citizen and resident of one of the eligible countries:

AF: South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Mozambique

EAP: Burma, Indonesia, Fiji, Laos, Malaysia, Taiwan

EUR: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kosovo, Serbia, Ukraine, Cyprus, Turkey

NEA: Egypt, Iraq, Palestinian Territories, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon

SCA: India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh

WHA: Venezuela, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Brazil, Haiti and United States

Participant Profile: OneBeat is open to musicians, who demonstrate both an advanced proficiency in their musical work, and an experience with or interest in developing ways to use music as a way to improve their communities. We are especially looking for musicians that have a strong commitment to their communities, and who are seeking new ways to engage in youth development, conflict resolution, overcoming cultural barriers, working towards more egalitarian and democratic societies, education, music therapy, and other ways in which music can serve the greater society.

Language: Fellows must demonstrate basic English proficiency in order to participate in ensembles and creative sessions.

Musical Genres: Musicians from any genre or background are encouraged to apply. We are looking for musicians who have achieved an advanced proficiency in styles and skills such as: hip hop, electronic music, traditional music, jazz, experimental, classical, sound-art installations, DJ-ing, audio engineering, etc.

Can artists nominate themselves?

Yes, artists can apply without being nominated by anyone else.

Will artists be chosen from every country?

Because of the number of countries and the number of Fellowship slots, we cannot accept Fellows from every country. However, we make every effort to have every region of the world represented.

How many artists will be selected? What expenses will be covered for the participant?

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20 foreign participants will be selected this year and 5 U.S. All costs will be covered for the Fellows, including travel, food, and accommodations. Fellows will also receive a per diem and modest stipend.

What is the review criteria?

Musical Excellence refers to the quality of their performance, composition, improvisational, production and/or technological skill. Ideally OneBeat musicians will be innovating either stylistically, lyrically, or technologically within their musical worlds.

Social Engagement refers to the way in which musicians have used music to serve their communities or greater societies. This might consist of starting a music school, promoting peace and democracy through musical content, reviving dying musical traditions, and more.

Collaboration refers to the applicants' openness and willingness to cross cultural and genre divides in creating original music, or re-interpreting traditional music, while trying to maintain the essence of each tradition.

What is the selection process?

All applications will be reviewed by the OneBeat Selection Committee comprised of OneBeat staff, representatives from the U.S. Department of State, music experts and musicians. The Selection Committee will provide their recommendations of Fellows and alternates to the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for final approval.

When will artists be identified?

Selected Fellows and alternates will be notified around the beginning of May 2015 and will have 2 weeks to confirm their participation in the program.

Are OneBeat Fellows paid?

Fellows will not receive performance fees, but their travel and accommodations will be covered, and they will receive a per diem and modest stipend (approximately \$500).

How long will they stay in the US? What will the participants do while in the U.S?

The program will be 26-28 days in length. While in the US the fellows will do a 10-14 day residency, during which they develop and rehearse original material, and re-imagine pre-existing material (such as pieces they've written in the past, or traditional tunes). They will then tour the US for two weeks performing, playing, and leading engagement events in a number of different American communities.

Will there be follow – on activities?

Yes, we hope to be able to provide selected Fellows support to launch OneBeat-inspired music projects in their home countries. These could range from a series of performances, to recording sessions, to community engagement events or programs, to mini-OneBeats. We will support project ideas by connecting Fellows to resources, helping Fellows to focus ideas, create budgets, or write grants, and partnering directly with Fellows' projects abroad. We also will encourage the OneBeat Fellows to be part of vibrant and growing OneBeat online community, through which Fellows will continue to be able to collaborate on new work.



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